

## IN THE CLAIMS:

1-11 (Previously canceled).

12. (Currently amended) A cigar-cutter device comprising:

\_\_\_\_\_ a pair of blades, ~~said blades being superposed, and each of the pair of blades having blade being movable in pivoting about an a pivot axis, a plurality of gear teeth securely fixed on the blade and extending radially outwardly from the pivot axis, and including handle and drive means and a sharp cutting edge, the cutting edge having a concave leading profile; said sharp edge presenting an inside face co-operating in a cutting plane with the inside face of the cutting edge of the other blade, said device further comprising~~

\_\_\_\_\_ a means for connecting together the pair of ~~said two superposed~~ blades, the means for connecting having an orifice and a pair of connecting elements operatively engaging a respective one of the pivot axes of the pair of blades, wherein the orifice is comprising at least one connection element located at said pivot axis, at least one plate including an orifice that is symmetrical about a middle axis and that is preferably circular, being suitable for receiving a cigar, and the pair of connecting elements are spaced apart such that the plurality of gear teeth of one of the pair of blades, operatively meshes with the plurality of gear teeth of the other of the pair of blades whereby the cutting edges of the pair of blades simultaneously and symmetrically move during cutting, and the pair of blades are superposed when the cutting edges are in a closed position. said plate being secured to the two blades at least via their said pivot axis (or axes), and said plate being disposed against the outside face of one of said blades;

\_\_\_\_\_ ~~Wherein said sharp edge presenting respective leading profiles that are concave and symmetrical to each other about said middle axis, said profiles preferably being substantially semicircular; and~~

\_\_\_\_\_ ~~Wherein the device further comprises mechanical coupling means for coupling pivoting of the two blades about their said respective pivot axes, said mechanical coupling means comprising at least two toothed portions directly secured respectively to each of said blades,~~

and co-operating by meshing in such a manner as to enable said blades to move simultaneously and symmetrically about said middle axis.

13. (Previously canceled)

14. (Currently amended) The A device according to claim 12, wherein the means for connecting includes a pair of ~~having two of said plates disposed on opposite sides of the pair of blades sandwiching the pair of blades, the pair of plates each having a hole defining the orifice of the means for connecting. placed respectively against each of said outside faces of each of said blades, said two orifices being identical and placed in register with each other.~~

15. (Currently amended) The A device according to claim 12, wherein the plurality of teeth of both of the pair of blades are disposed in a common plane disposed between the cutting edges of the pair ~~each aid toothed portion is inscribed in a circular envelope centered on said pivot axis (or axes) of said blades.~~

16. (Canceled)

17. (Canceled)

18. (Currently amended) The A device according to claim 12, wherein the cutting said sharp edge of each of the pair of blades is disposed ~~a said blade is situation between the said pivot axis and a handle formed in a portion of each of the pair of blades opposite of the pivot axis. said drive means thereof; said drive means preferably including an orifice suitable for receiving at least one digit.~~

19. (Currently amended) The A device according to claim 12, wherein the means for connecting includes a ~~said connection means further comprise resilient connection means between the pair of said two blades.~~

20. (Currently amended) The A device according to claim 19, wherein the said resilient connection means comprises ~~comprise a compression spring or a torsion spring holding the pair~~

of said blades in an open position when the device is at rest, and the said device further comprises a includes temporary closure means for holding preventing relative displacement of the pair of two blades when said device is at rest, preferably means for holding said blades in the closed a close-together position.

21. (Currently amended) The A device according to claim 14 12, including an abutment guide means for enabling the relative displacement of each of the pair of blades blade to be limited, preferably comprising at least one slider suitable for moving in at least one slideway that is preferably circular, said slider being secured to at least one of said blades or said plate, and said slideway being provided in the other one of said blades or where appropriate in said plate.

22. (Currently amended) A method of cutting a cigar comprising:

\_\_\_\_\_ using the a device according to claim 12, wherein the in which said two sharp edges are spaced apart and a cigar is inserted between the cutting edges of the pair of blades through the said two edges, preferably inside an orifice; and provided in one of said plates, and then said edges are moved moving the cutting edges of the pair of blades towards each other, by imparting said simultaneously and symmetrically, such that the pair of blades are in the closed position and the cigar is cut. relative displacement so as to cut the cigar, preferably with the help of said drive means.

23. (New) The device of claim 21, wherein the abutment guide means includes a slider and a slideway, and the slider is coupled to at least one of the pair of plates and engages the slideway such that displacement of the pair of blades is limited to no greater than a length of the slideway, formed in at least one of the pair of blades.

24. (New) The device of claim 23, wherein the slideway is an arcuate channel.

25. (New) The device of claim 24, wherein the slideway is formed in each of the pair of blades, and the slider is a pin coupled to each of the pair of plates and extending through both of the slideways.

26. (New) The device of claim 12, wherein the plurality of gear teeth is limited to two gear teeth per each of the pair of blades.